

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 2520</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>SAHB</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. West (Tammy)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>5/8/2019</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>No Impact</b>

**Research Analysis**

The Senate amendments to HB2520 require alternative education programs to be operational and serving students by September 1 each year, instead of September 15.

The amendments require funding for an alternative education program to be based on its average daily membership the year prior.

The amendments direct the State Department of Education to designate up to 15% of the funding available for alternative education programs to districts participating in cooperative agreements for alternative education programs.

HB2520 clarifies the grades in which alternative education must be provided. The measure changes the date by which school districts must report to the State Department of Education (SDE) a needs assessment identifying students who are most at risk of not completing a high school education. It sets a deadline for districts to submit to the SDE a proposed plan for meeting the needs of the students at risk of not graduating by establishing, continuing or expanding alternative education programs.

The measure requires the State Board of Education to incorporate the annual needs assessment data into an annual report, and make it available on the State Department of Education's website.

Other requirements in the measure include:

- A certified teacher in an alternative education program or school to be paid five percent (5%) more than the designated salary step for that teacher within the adopted salary schedule of the school district.
- A person providing counseling or social services in an alternative education program or school to be certified as a school counselor by the State Board of Education or as a mental health provider.
- Elementary school districts to request a waiver from the requirements by certain date, and any waiver request to be accompanied by an assurance the school district does not have students in need of alternative education.

The measure grants the State Board of Education the authority to:

- Create an evaluation schedule for effective and highly effective programs, requiring them to be evaluated not less than once every three (3) years.

- Suspend funds for an alternative education program that does not that conform to the requirements of statutes and rules applicable to alternative education.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

### **Fiscal Analysis**

In it's current form, the measure makes modifications to the funding calculation for alternative education programs across the state. However, while it modifies the calculation, it does not require additional funding.

Prepared By: Cole Stout

### **Other Considerations**

None.